we have not come to any decision in our business matters as yet.

Newbedford 7th mo 19th 1863

Dear Debbie,

Whether I shall be able to answer your letter which I received this morning, I am not exactly able to say for either the weather or a dull sermon I have heard, have made me so "Lemniferous", that I can hardly keep awake, however I will at least make the attempt, and like the minister who once told me that it was devilish hard work sometimes to pray when he did not feel like it, yet after he once began he warmed up, and got into the spirit of it before he got through. Well Debbie these are glorious times we are living in. I say glorious because it is just such times as we see the value and need of such principles we profess. it is the bubbling up of the unclean spirits — it is the last dying struggle of the Copperheads or I may say Slavery. How truly did Theodore Parker say; "Slavery will not die a dry death; it may have as many lives as a cat, at last it will die like a Mad dog in a village, with only the enemies of the human kind to lament its fate, and they too cowardly to appear as mourners." The true mourners, neither the ministers or the political do not appear but nevertheless, this outrageous state of things is the legitimate result of our Churchianity

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and Political teachings - "Ex nihilo, nihil fit" nothing produces nothing - As in Music, Grand Harmony is produced in the "Amalgamation" of discordant Sounds, so out of this Chaos a purer, and grander Harmony the true Spirit of Liberty will arise - It is hard to kick against the Pricks - thus says the Bible - and is also hard as Oliver Wendell Holmes says to kick against the Abolitionist. "If so he you strike at one of their heads with the Bludgeon of the law of violence it flies open like the seed capsule of a Jack weed and fills the whole region with seminal thoughts, which will spring up in a crop just like the original Martyr" - As the Water poured upon the head flows over the whole body, so has the Spirit of Rowdyism reached even unto this goodly Quaker City - Soon as the news of the New York Riot reached here, the low murmurings of discontent were heard and soon it was ascertained that there was to be a combined effort of the lower classes in Fall River Wareham & Bridgewater & other adjoining towns to burn & Pillage New Bedford - The Programme as far as ascertained was to burn the Mansion House first, then Dann's Eating Saloon & then Ricketson's Block Corner of Union & Purchase or rather 4th St, where the Provost

marshalls Office is – But I am not in the least apprehensive of any danger; for we are prepared for any Emergency and we are determined – there will be no blank cartridges – We have in our two Forts, Fort Phoenix at Fairhaven and Fort Taber at the Point 150 Heavy Artillery men of the U.S. Army – last Wednesday they received 146 Muskets with Ball cartridges from Springfield – We have also two Home Guard Companies amounting to 150 more also a Dragoon Co who have had their Sabres sharpened & are armed with Carbines, as well as two pieces of Artillery and also Capt Hurbert with his Company just returned from Newbern – Capt Hurbert is in Command of the whole The U. S. Cutter is also at the foot of our St Union St, with her Guns shotted – 150 Extra police are on duty – & we have pickets extending for several miles out of town – Our Sea Captains are armed with Revolvers & our Citizens mostly armed also – Your humble servant myself & one of his family are armed – There is but one opinion here as regards the Colored men, we are going to stand by them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ – Thursday the Colored Chaplain of the 55th Mass Regt, came along by the Bank where five of us were standing & said he wanted a Revolver for himself – then was

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he said
each one of us & gave him a dollar, and Major
Gen A Bourne told him to wait - in ten minutes
or less enough was raised & Bourne bought
a $16 Revolver for him - Our first citizens sing
freely - Our Military sleep on their arms every
night in the City Hall & other Public buildings -
One Man was heard a few days since to say that
he would head a Mob & burn the Negro Houses
in the West part of the town - Twenty Negros pa
trolled, armed with Revolvers, around his
House intending to shoot him if he came out
We too have come in for our share of grief -
How nobly have the Massachusetts Regts behaved
in every action - Lieut Col Wm Logan Rodman
died a Hero - his Conservative views had become
much changed - His death is a severe blow to
the family - Mrs Rodman & Sue, are almost
inconsolable - he was always a kind and
dutiful Son as well as a brother - Capt Thos
R Rodman was only three feet from him when
he fell - he crawled back - but he was dead - he
was killed by a Sharp Shooter as he arose to
give a command - the ball entered his
side & came out of the Shoulder - he did not
live five seconds - Thos Rodman & his first
Lieut then laid side of him as it was death
to any one to move from 12 o'clock at noon
the time he was killed till 6 o'clock, six
long hours in the Hottest Sun you ever saw

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Som days, it was awful - he was in agony all the time - When Evening came, the Rev Mr Thomas Son who is in the Same Rest, the Carpenter, and a Man by the name of Egerton, rode two miles to a Sugar House, got Some boards and made a coffin - in which they put him afterwards wrapped him in his blanket - Then Young Thomas & the Other Man drove him in a mule cart that night about two miles and buried him - marking the place - where it will remain till Cool weather as they do not allow bodies to be carried through New Orleans now - It is Sad - is it not - I have been fearful that Tom would get Killed - in the last attack on Port Hudson the 14th of June I think - It was he that led the assault - he is a true abolitionist & is ready to sacrifice his life, for his principles, he acted as Col - the man Side of him was Killed & Toms Coat Sleeve was torn by the Same bullet - Tom is a noble fellow & beloved by all the Rest - About three weeks since he visited Mr Logans Grave, and remained there two hours - The Wife has been very anxious - but now that Port Hudson has surrendered, their anxiety & mine also is relieved - He is very much reduced when in New Orleans he weighed 200 now only 153 - Lue Rodman his Sister has been

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has been very sick - with some Spinal & nervous complaint - At one time about three weeks since she was not expected to live - She is much better now and is expected to recover Capt Thos R Robeson was the Oldest son of the late Thos - He entered the army at the Commencement of the war as 2d Lieut having obtained leave of Pres Felton - he rose to be the Senior Capt though only 22 years old - He was wounded by a Minnie Rifle ball in his thigh near the groin too high up for amputation - He was wounded on the 3d suffered much the first day - the next day he was comfortable Mortification having taken place & he died on Monday the 6th - The same of his Grandfather gentlemanly & noble traits of character were hereditary in him - Genl Barlow was wounded & lay in the next tent - Mrs Barlow his wife was nurse to both - She came into Capt Robesons tent after something which lay at the Head of his bed - the instinct of the Gentleman were so great, that he would not allow her to get it, but raised up his own self & gave it her, and in ~~five~~ five minutes after died - The funeral service took place here - Mr Potter officiating - It was solemn & impressive Col Russell of 2d Cavalry Regt & Capt Grafton who was wounded at Chancellorsville

& who belonged to the Same Regt with Capt Loveren & others beside the family came down — The Coffin lay in the passage way out of the West Entry door — It was covered with the American Flag, & all over with Flowers — There was also funeral Services at the Grave — Many of our returned Officers attended the funeral — This Sacrifice of Human life is awful — Would that all the Great Charters of Human Rights might be written in the Spirit of Christianity and with the pens of Angels instead of being written in Blood — I hope after we get through this fearful Struggle, that a higher & better civilization will arise; that the True Child of Liberty will be born —

We are all as well as usual at home — I am somewhat better than I was — I favor myself all I know how to, (and that is not much) — I keep away from my business & don't talk much, as I have found out that that is injurious to me — I think more & concentrate my thoughts — The last week has been very warm rainy and oppressive and I have not felt quite as well — Mrs Frances D. Gage, was here about three weeks since & spoke at the City Hall — She seemed like one inspired & was greatly admired — She stood at

Lawrence Grinnells, Where she received the
kindest attention — What a Running there
that is of Wendells at Framingham — Those
letters in the Liberator from Newbern signed
"Thud" are written by Lieut Gov. P. Guerrier
one of my friends — He is an Englishman
by birth — a civil Engineer by Profession, &
sent over by Stevenson the Great Engineer
to assist in building the Grand Trunk Rail
Road — he is only twenty five years old & one
of the brightest intellect and best abolitionists
I know of — after the Rail Road was finished he
returned — but when the war broke out he
came over here to fight for Liberty & enlisted
& is now as a private in the Mass 22d Milton
Regt — was in Six battles — wounded twice at
Gains Mills taken prisoner to Richmond
was discharged from our Hospital after having
been exchanged — He staid two months with
Bro Samuel & was often at Uncle Henrys stayed
a day or two at a time — He is a fine fellow
& I will tell you more about him when I see you
It is half past ten, and some of the Dragoons have just
rode by — all is quiet — & I am sorry to "Root" — It seems
to me that Louis Napoleon is somewhat to be feared does
you think so! Sarah Ann is as well as usual for her
Sarah Thorne was married a few weeks since to Mr Rutland
nephew of Judge Borstow & Sarah Anthony Capt Anthonys
daughter was married to her Cousin Tyson & gone to China
I have much to tell you for the present good bye Yrs affy

To Miss Deborah Weston

Joseph Ricketson

M.H.S. 31.73